

# SENIOR

NWMISSOURIAN

# GUIDE



## To Do

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PHOTOS BY KARI KOLTZ | CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

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# Jasinski urges students to have fun, work hard

It's your senior year, and the reality of "the real world" is just around the corner. I'm optimistic that you have taken full advantage of the many opportunities afforded to you throughout your academic career through coursework, service learning projects and internships, involvement in student organizations and from interaction with faculty members and your peers.

While your time here has most likely gone quickly, there's still plenty of work to be done. That's why I want to emphasize that Northwest continues to provide an abundance of resources for you as your graduation date approaches. If you haven't already, please consider visiting Career Services on the first floor of the Administration Building. The friendly and professional Career Services staff will be a tremendous help as you navigate your career search, consider graduate school or explore any number of service opportunities. Embrace your calling, and as the saying goes, find a job you love and you'll

never work a day in your life.

I also encourage you to stay positive. Don't let the uncertainty of the job market or the pressures of coursework alter your out-



President John Jasinski

look. Remember, you're a Bearcat! Once you cross that commencement stage in Bearcat Arena, you'll be part of a worldwide network of 67,000 Northwest alumni and friends. Many of these devoted individuals are incredibly passionate about Northwest and want to assist recent graduates and ensure the success of fellow Bearcats just like you. Someday you, too, will be in the position to help a young Northwest graduate, and I'm sure you'll answer the call.

Upon graduation, continuing your affiliation with Northwest is an important step toward your success. One of the best ways to accomplish this is through involvement in your Northwest Alumni Association. There are currently 18 alumni chapters worldwide, including chapters in Kansas City, Dallas, Southern California, Chicago and St. Louis and an international chapter in Japan, and more chapters are on the way. The initiatives and opportunities presented by the Northwest Alumni Association foster a valuable lifelong relationship between you and your alma mater, and membership is complimentary to first-year graduates. To find out more about the Northwest Alumni Association, visit [www.nwmissouri.edu/alumni](http://www.nwmissouri.edu/alumni) or stop by the Alumni House.

I'm confident you'll successfully navigate your senior year. Represent Northwest by wearing the Green and White proudly, be a lifelong learner and remember, "Once a Bearcat, always a Bearcat."

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# Life after college proves not so sweet for grads

BY KURT AUSTIN  
Contributing Columnist

I suspect that when we all look back on our lives with the wisdom of old age and a well-matured perspective for reflection, there will be many fond memories to recall. And while those touching times of childhood innocence or college debauchery will undoubtedly be different for every one of us, I am fairly certain that there will be one common ground for all: life after college will not be among them.

You see, life after college is pretty much going to be the worst time of your life. I say that with full sympathy and sincerity, but there is really no sense in sugar-coating it. If you are anything like me when I was a college student, you had this romantic illusion of everything that awaits at the end of

the educational tunnel from which you have been drudging through more or less all your life. Unfortunately, it is a fraud, perhaps some sort of fantasy we subconsciously convince ourselves of to rationalize the all-night study sessions and last-minute papers.

In college, you can get away with a series of relationships that have the stability of a tower of beer cans you build on a Friday night with your friends. Post-college you must prepare for the pesky societal pressure to settle down, pay for a wedding that on average currently costs more than a low-end luxury car and then start a family with kids and a house that make your wedding bills suddenly look like mere pocket change.

Which brings us to the source of that income. A job market that should alleviate any concerns you may have

about a housing market that's down in the dumps. After all, you will be lucky to afford a one-bedroom shack that makes your freshman dorm look lavish (that is unless you have the good fortune to be in my present position, moving back in with the parents).

A good friend recently tried to reassure me on the job hunt by saying that finding a job in today's economy is the equivalent to finding a date at closing time at the bar, you take what you can get and hope for the best. For example, the Kansas City Star is currently hiring a sports reporter for minimum wage part time. Good luck covering those school loans on that wage.

And did I mention you get kicked off your parents' health insurance when you are no longer enrolled in school?

The moral of the story is to enjoy your senior year without worrying about job interviews and house mortgages. Do try to network like crazy because it really is all about whom you know and how they can help you get ahead. And try to save some money in case the job offers don't come rolling in. But above all, have fun and make the most of it while you can.

Before you know it, the real world will be beckoning to intimidate you with its big decisions and tough times. Knowing that its sink or swim can be scary, but it's a temporary transition that will get better as it passes. Or so they say.

The path life leads you on is about to take a twist- enjoy the ride and trust that it will all work out in the end. Besides, there's always grad school to come back to.

**The bottom line is that the day you get the diploma is the day you kiss all the charms of college away."**

 **GOOD LUCK SENIORS** 



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# Interview tips to lead students to their dream job

## The Dos

- Visit the company's website to get a sense of its products and marketplace. To dig deeper, research them using these resources.
- Ensure that your portfolio contains no errors (typographic, formatting, etc.) that will reflect poorly on your professionalism.
- Bring at least two copies of your résumé.
- Get plenty of sleep before your interview. If you are tired, it will show as disinterest and boredom.
- Make eye contact, especially when you are speaking.
- Uncross your legs and arms and face your interviewer.
- Smile and do not be afraid to show your passion for the work. Pay close attention to what your interviewers say and answer their questions clearly and succinctly, then ask if they would like more information.
- Give clear examples of past achievements or experiences that prove your points.
- Always ask questions that demonstrate your interest in the subject being discussed – an interested but unqualified candidate will be hired almost as readily as a qualified but passive one.

## The Don'ts

- Do not be late. Circle the building, park and meditate, or sit in the lobby and read magazines but do whatever it takes to be at the right office door 15 minutes before they expect you. If you have not been to the building before, be sure you have reliable directions and have researched traffic patterns so you can get there with time to spare.
- Do not criticize former colleagues, employers or clients. Badmouthing only proves that you cannot be trusted not to disparage your peers and managers in the future.
- To the eternal question, "What should I wear?" we reply: Don't make a fashion statement.
- Attire for women: conservative (and matching or complementary) colors, unprovocative styles, minimal makeup and low heels.
- Attire for men: conservative, clean, unwrinkled, unlogo'd shirt with a collar, pants (not shorts or jeans) that have a discernible crease and relatively well-cared-for leather shoes (not sandals, boots or cross-trainers). For a first interview, a sports jacket and tie are entirely appropriate but a three-piece suit is overkill.

*These tips were compiled from Andrew Davis, president of Synergistech Communications, Inc., newsletter at [http://www.ebstc.org/newsletter/0507/Article\\_3.htm](http://www.ebstc.org/newsletter/0507/Article_3.htm)*



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## GOOD LUCK TO OUR SENIOR BEARCATS!

# Mock interviews prepare students to take on employers

BY TREY WILLIAMS  
News Editor

On Sept. 29, students, faculty and employers from around the area came together to participate in the first "Mock" Interview Day of the 2010 school year.

"Mock" Interview Day was a success yet again this year. Two hundred and eighty-six students participated this year, which according to Career Services is the largest outcome they have ever had. Along with the 286 students, 37 employer representatives were there to conduct the interviews that will prepare students for the real thing.

"It's just a great opportunity for our students to hear from the employer's mouth," Stacy Stokes, career development coordinator said. "This is what we're looking for, and you need to be at this place, you need to perform to this level."

"Mock" Interview day is held once a

trimester by Career Services. Its intention is to prepare students, mostly seniors, for interviewing for that first, very important job. And it is a program that Career Services prides itself on.

"This is my all-time favorite event," director of Career Services Joan Schneider said. "If the powers that be said you could only do one event this would be it for me. Because the candidate walks away with something constructive that's supplied by a professional in their field."

Students are given approximately 40 minutes total for their entire interview. Schneider, Stokes and others at

Career Services encourage them to arrive 10 to 15 minutes early. Participates then proceed with a usually, 20 minute long interview followed by a 10 to 15 minute feedback session.

"We try and model this as close to a professional interview as we possibly can," Schneider said. "So there is an expectation that the students dress professionally, and on the occasion that the student does not, we do expect they write a letter of apology to the employers."

Not only does "Mock" Interview Day offer an opportunity for students to sharpen their interview skills, but occasionally the interviews result in a follow-up or possibly a job. Schneider said

that every once in a while an employer might ask to keep a student's résumé and request to speak with them on Career Day if they were really impressed.

Career Services recently added a session where students are critiqued on their résumés, even those who did not sign up to participate.

"Mock" Interview Day is one that Career Services hopes students gain valuable knowledge from and they encourage all students to sign up and give it a shot.

The next "Mock" Interview Day is scheduled for Wednesday Feb. 16. The first day to apply starts that first week of classes. To apply, students must sign up through "Hire a Bearcat" or on the Career Services web page.

"Even if there isn't an employer in your discipline, there's value in the exercise," Schneider said. "Many of the questions are similar. The experience of putting your best foot forward is worth it."

"This is what we're looking for, and you need to be at this place, you need to perform to this level."

-Stacy Stokes  
career development  
coordinator

## What's Next On Your List?

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## After Graduation Checklist

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	1. Mail graduation announcements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	2. Revise Resume <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	3. Research Job Postings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
●	4. Practice Interviewing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	5. Consider Grad School <input type="checkbox"/>

**The Graduate School**

# Internships provide real-world experience to graduates, students

BY AUSTIN BUCKNER  
 Managing Editor

One of the most important keys to success for current students and graduates alike is participating in an internship. Internships provide students with real-world experience that is imperative in getting a leg up on the competition.

Katie Stark, a senior marketing management major and a career ambassador for Career Services, said internships help potential employees stand out from those who have not had that real-world, hands-on experience.

"It's crucial," Stark said. "I spoke to my employers several times and they told me 'your résumé stood out because you already had an internship before.' Now, I have a whole section. Where some people have 'work experience,' mine says 'internships.' It's just more marketable."

A 2008 survey conducted by Career Services echoes the importance of internships, and the top reasons Northwest students participate in internships. The survey showed 96.4 percent of interns said they participated to gain hands-on experience. Roughly 83 percent claimed to have participated to network with industry professionals and to build confidence in their own skills.

Rosalie Weathermon, Career Services internship coordinator said some majors at Northwest list internships as a requirement to graduate, but believes they are equally important for

all students.

"At Northwest, we have some majors who are required to do an academic credit internship. For others, it's an elective or a choice in your curriculum," Weathermon explained. "We (Career Services) promote internships in general, whether they're for credit or not."

Career Services is a great resource in finding and applying for internships. One of the most popular methods for finding internships is Career Day. This trimester's Career Day event will take place this Tuesday, October 12, in Bearcat Arena.

"Career Day is a great place to look for internships, as well as full time employment and grad school opportunities," Weathermon said. "There will be 60 to 70 employers there. Some of them will be non-profit, regular businesses and federal government agencies. It's a great opportunity to do some one-stop shopping and use your time well."

Stark and Weathermon both encourage students to use internships to branch out for possible employment.

"I try to encourage people to reach out for something a little bit outside their comfort zones for an internship," Weathermon said. "That might be the organization you're looking at, the type of skills you're going to use or the location."

For assistance with internships, students are encouraged to visit their office, room 130 in the Administration Building, or call 660.562.1250.

## Reasons for Internship Participation

- For Money
- Requirement for elective
- Requirement for major
- Explore major
- Build confidence
- Apply coursework
- Gain hands on experience
- Networking
- Develop marketable skills
- Explore careers

# Career Services

## Spring 2010 Mock Interview Day

**263** students attended

**72.4%** were seniors

**33** employers present

## Spring 2010 Career Day

**61** companies attended

**391** students participated

**52.7%** were seniors

**76.8%** accepted resumes

**2,808** jobs/ internships added to "Hire a Bearcat" from August 2009-April 2010

**76,306** website views for academic year 2009-2010

**95.4%** Northwest's current job placement rate

# Graduate school constitutes thesis papers, hard work

BY EMILY DEMAREA  
Missourian Reporter

In a struggling economy, jobs are becoming less available to college graduates. One way that the University is assisting students in obtaining a successful job is by offering graduate school. As of now, there are 949 students enrolled in the University's graduate school program.

As defined by Gregory Haddock, dean of the graduate school, graduate school is where you have the opportunity to specialize in your chosen field.

"When you are working for your undergraduate degree, you are not just working for a level standard," Haddock said. "But it also gives the student a really good baseline to start their careers. The specialization

allows you to no longer focus on all of the broad topics; it allows you to go straight into the discipline specifics." Some students plan to attend graduate school, but not at Northwest.

A social science education major, Taylor Wissel plans to attend graduate school in South Carolina. Once there, the fifth-year senior said he will spend at least 18 months in graduate school.

"I decided that I want to enroll in graduate school because I can further my education in a specific area of study as well as get into administration in the schools," Wissel said.

All University graduate programs take a shorter amount of time to complete than the bachelor's program does.

"They're typically 30-32 credit

hours for non-thesis degrees," Haddock said. "On average, it's another two-year commitment."

A thesis is a written and documented research project, anywhere from 30-130 pages, that a student engages with for some of the specific programs. Haddock said that thesis requirements are prevalent in the fields of recreation, agriculture, biology, English, history and geographic information science.

"Other areas have an active research project or some kind of culminating experience at the end," Haddock said. "Not all of the programs have a thesis - the majority of them don't."

For some degrees, graduate school is not expected, but definitely recommended.

"In education, you are not required to attend graduate school

to get your first job in teaching," Haddock said. "However, most anybody that gets into teaching is required by the state as part of their certification to continue on with graduate education."

After graduating in the spring of 2012, Wissel hopes his progress in graduate school will lead him to a position as a high school principal.

Another department that encourages graduate school is business.

"Although graduate school is not a requirement to get a business job," Haddock said, "it's going to facilitate someone's ability to move up in the current organization that they're working at."

There are departments in which graduate school is not necessary; however, statistics prove it is more beneficial in scoring that dream job.

**Graduate programs average 30-32 credit hours**

**40 master's-level programs**

**Two satellite campuses**

**949 graduate students enrolled**

**9-12 courses entails a full-time graduate student**

**46 percent of graduate students are pursuing degrees off-campus**

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- Northwestern Mutual Financial
- Platte Co. R-III Schools
- Shenandoah Consolidated School District
- St. Gregory's School
- St. Joseph School District
- The Buckle
- USDA-NRCS
- West Platte R-II School District



## Who is hiring in today's job market

### Skilled-trades

These jobs fall to the wayside because of the gap in education requirements. They do not require a four-year degree, yet entail more than a high school diploma. Community colleges and trade school programs train these workers, getting people into the workforce faster and cheaper.

Though training is required, most jobs enable people to work paid apprenticeships to learn the trade. Earning money while learning, many skilled-trades go on to become solid career options as they are self-employed and owning their own businesses.

### Transportation

According to a 2010 job outlook study from Borrell Associates, the transportation, warehousing and utilities industries are looking to make a 30 percent jump in job openings.

The U.S. manufacturing sector has steadily developed over the past year, causing a domino effect to the warehouses that manufacture products and the transportation that distributes them.

The requirements are low. With a clean driving record, commercial driver's license and an age requirement, many are qualified.

### Automotive

The nation has seen this industry fall during the recession, but as it recovers, jobs are being created. Nearly 228,000 workers were laid off when the industry hit bottom. As they rebound, the auto industry will bring a new work force.

Compared to other manufacturing industries, motor vehicle manufacturing workers have the highest salaries.

### Education

Though school districts face budget cuts with the rest of us, teachers are in low supply. Many schools face the same battle of losing quality teachers, while some supply is weakened due to low salaries. Fewer college students choose teaching as a career path as the requirements lengthen, licensing procedures get hectic and salaries lower.

Many states offer new certification programs in hope of attracting students on the fence. These programs allow people with a bachelor's degree in another field to work in the classroom while taking the courses necessary to earn their certification.

### Health care

The most wanted health care workers of 2010 include home health aids, X-ray technicians and nursing home workers. The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that in the next eight years, 600,000 jobs will be created for nursing alone. Not only will the aging U.S. population need more medical care as baby boomers begin turning 65, but with the new health care reform bill more Americans will be eligible.

Ten of today's 20 fastest-growing occupations are in health care.

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*This job listing was found on [Jobs.aol.com](http://Jobs.aol.com) and [Careerbuilder.com](http://Careerbuilder.com)*

# 5 Tips of Social Media Job Seeking

According to the recent National Association of Colleges and Employers 2010 student survey, nearly 92 percent of college seniors have a social networking profile, but less than one-third have used social networks in their job searches.

According to a 2009 study by CareerBuilder.com, 45 percent of employers are using social networks to screen job applicants.

Follow these tips on using social media when job seeking, but remember that online methods should supplement, not replace, in-person job-searching techniques.

### Develop a professional presence

What do people find when they Google you? If the results are not professional, take down those party pictures and create a professional persona. Set up a profile on a LinkedIn, which is a 100 percent professional social network, and add professional details to your Google, Facebook and Twitter profiles.

### Fill your profiles with keywords

All of your social media profiles should include key words and phrases that recruiters or hiring managers might type into a search engine to find a person like you. The best place to find relevant words is in the job listings that appeal to you and the social media profiles of people who have the positions you want.

### Tweet

Twitter is an amazing tool to research and connect with recruiters, industry experts, and potential employers. Even if you set up a Twitter profile to "listen" more than you tweet, you will get enormous value out of the information you will discover. Plus, many organizations are now tweeting out their job postings—do not miss this new source of opportunities.

### Blog

Consider staking your own ground in the social media world. Blogging (as long as you keep it clean) can demonstrate your knowledge and passion to a potential employer. If you are not interested in your own blog, comment on the posts of industry bloggers you admire. You might just catch the eye of a reader who is hiring.

### Share

One of the best ways to maintain a strong professional network is to support other people by sharing helpful information like articles, blog posts and YouTube videos. A small, helpful gesture like forwarding a link is a great form of networking (and they will likely help you in return).

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*These tips were compiled from Lindsey Pollak's article "The 10 commandments of social media Job seeking" in Job Choices 2011.*